

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00177 270614Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03
OC-06 CCO-00 /048 W
-----270836Z 061606/11

R 270530Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8808
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, SF, MA
SUBJECT: AIR MADAGASCAR SERVICE TO SOUTH AFRICA SUSPENDED

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0062 (NOTAL) (B) TANANARIVE 0151 TANANARIVE 0142

1. AIR MADAGASCAR INFORMS EMBASSY THAT AIR MADAGASCAR/AIR MAURITIUS FLIGHTS MD/MK 842, 843, 844 AND 845 SERVING SOUTH AFRICA FROM TANANARIVE AND MAURITIUS WILL NOT SERVE SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. WHILE THIS TERMINATES DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN TANANARIVE AND SOUTH AFRICA, SEVERAL LESS CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE ROUTES STILL EXIST THROUGH CONNECTING FLIGHTS IN MAURITIUS.

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3. JAN 26 RADIO MADAGASCAR ANNOUNCED THAT MADAGASCAR WILL NOT RETURN SOUTH AFRICAN CESSNA DETAINED JAN 18 (REF B) WHEN IT OVERLEW AND LANDED MADAGASCAR WITHOUT PERMISSION. AIRCRAFT WAS ENROUTE TO MAURITIUS.

4. COMMENT: DECISIONS TO CANCEL AIR MADAGASCAR FLIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND TO CONFISCATE SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT

FOLLOW THE VISIT TO MADAGASCAR JAN 19-22 OF PAUL BERENGER,
MMM SEC-GEN FROM MAURITIUS (REF C). BERENGER CRITICIZED
MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S GOVERNMENT
FOR BEING ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA AND,
SPECIFICALLY, FOR PERMITTING SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT
TO LAND FREELY IN MAURITIUS. BERENGER DID NOT, OF
COURSE, CRITICIZE MADAGASCAR FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN
MAURITIUS/TANANARIVE/MAPUTO/JOHANNESBURG WEEKLY FLIGHT
FOR WHICH AIR MADAGASCAR SUPPLIES BOEING 737. NONETHE-
LESS, ONE MUST CONCLUDE THAT IN GIVING BERENGER LAVISH
ATTENTION, ALBEIT ON AN "UNOFFICIAL" VISIT, GDRM PRESIDENT
RATSIRAKA HAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED HYPOCRISY OF LACK OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHILE AT SAME TIME CONTINUING BENEFIT
FROM LUCRATIVE FLIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA. MOREOVER, HAVING
RECENTLY BEEN EMBARRASSED BY MASSACRE OF LARGE NUMBER OF
COMORIANS IN MAJUNGA, RATSIRAKA IS PROBABLY STRIVING TO
DISSIPATE THE RACIST OVERTONES OF THE MAJUNGA AFFAIR
BY MAKING SUPREME EFFORT TO CHAMPION ANTI-APARTHEID
CAUSE.SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

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